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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

January 11, 2002

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I support the Microsoft antitrust settlement agreement. I applaud the efforts made toward settling the lawsuit. I am disappointed, however, that some of the states have unreasonably decided to continue the litigation.

I am a strong supporter of Microsoft. As a small business owner and a participant in the stock market, I have directly observed the impact Microsoft has had on our economy. Microsoft's innovation resulted in the creation of jobs, a healthy stock market, and the production of superior quality products. The lawsuit has been detrimental to our economy, and should be concluded as soon as possible.

It is in the best interest of our economy, as well as everyone involved, that this case be resolved. The terms of the settlement are fair, and even go beyond what was even at issue in the lawsuit. For example, Microsoft has made such concessions as agreeing to not retaliate against computer manufacturers who produce computers containing software that competes with the Windows operating system. Microsoft has agreed to alter its business practices to better comply with the antitrust laws. Continuing the litigation in light of these changes simply does not make sense.

Thank you for your efforts in ensuring the prompt resolution of this unnecessary litigation.

Sincerely,

*Robert J. Arneson*  
President/Owner